

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PINS, YO

SUBJECT:INCIDENT INVOLVING CONSUL GENERAL AND MRS. BULAJIC

REFS.: (A) STATE 106206, (B) BELGRADE 2229

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (SHAMWELL, L/M AND GILMORE, EUR/EE)
MET WITH YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
STRBAC MAY 8 TO DISCUSS LEGAL ASPECTS OF MAY 3-4 BOTTLE-
THROWING INCIDENT.

2. GILMORE INFORMED STRBAC THAT THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HAD AUTHORIZED INITIATION OF
AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THE 1972 STATUTE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS. PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION IS TO
ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH INCIDENT
OCCURRED AND DETERMINE WHO MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.

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3. SHAMWELL GAVE STRBAC DETAILED EXPLANATION (ALONG GENERAL LINES OF FYI PARAGRAPH IN REFTEL A.) OF PROCESS FOLLOWED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN U.S. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM STRBAC SHAMWELL INDICATED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSION HAVE GONE TO COURT TO TESTIFY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND CITED RECENT CASE INVOLVING ROBBERY OF THREE SOVIET OFFICIALS AS SPECIFIC

EXAMPLE.

4. STRBAC SUMMARIZED PRESENT YUGOSLAV ATTITUDE TOWARD INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS: (A) GOY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT U.S. ATTORNEY HAS INITIATED INVESTIGATION AND ASSUMES THAT THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE AN ENERGETIC ONE; (B) GOY HOPES THAT INVESTIGATION WILL UNEARTH SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BRING CASE TO TRIAL WITHOUT SWORN COMPLAINTS FROM YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS; (C) QUESTIONS OF YUGOSLAV CONSULAR PERSONNEL (1) SIGNING SWORN STATEMENT THAT THEY HAD WITNESSED ACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST BULAJIC AND (2) GIVING TESTIMONY AT A TRIAL WILL BE DECIDED BY BELGRADE.

5. STRBAC ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT CORRECT GRANFIL'S STATEMENT TO ARMITAGE THAT BULAJIC ALLEGEDLY REQUESTED, BUT FAILED TO RECEIVE, THE PROTECTION OF A POLICEMAN ON DUTY IN CORRIDOR OF BUILDING IN WHICH INCIDENT OCCURRED. YUGOSLAV CONSULATE IN NEW YORK NOW REPORTS THAT OFFICER IN CORRIDOR WAS NOT A POLICEMAN BUT RATHER A PRIVATELY HIRED GUARD.

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